

Top Dollar

continued from page 1

that there are normally only one or two contract specialists on site for any deployment. "This training for Top Dollar has given me a lot of added confidence."

Six of the seven CAFB team members were on the team that won the Air Mobility Command Top Dollar competition in June. Senior Airman Jeannine McGuire replaced the team cashier when they began training in October for the Air Force competition, due to a PCS move.

"One of the things that really helped us in the AMC competition is how we worked so well together," Grab said. "Airman McGuire blends right in. Everyone has a real supportive, real team attitude."

Throughout the four-day event, the teams are challenged with more than 200 timed scenarios scored by a staff of evaluators. While the main focus of the competition is proficiency in their specialties, participants are also graded in several military skills, such as chemical warfare, information security, self-aid and buddy care, marksmanship and physical fitness. At the end, one team is crowned overall champion.

The CAFB team trained part time for two weeks before beginning full-time training Oct. 23. Most training has taken place weekdays in a tent outside the 437th Comptroller Squad-

ron customer service office. Training recently moved indoors to the old chapel, Bldg. 217, due to cold weather.

"It's the same training we did for the AMC competition; we just stepped it up a bit," said Dent. "The AMC competition let us know what to expect, and now we're able to focus on the areas we needed more improvement on."

The training focus has been to prepare for exercise scenarios. "We went through each page of our regulations, marking pages and trying to anticipate scenarios," Grab said.

Training also included balancing funds at the end of each day, which Grab said will be more crucial at the Air Force level competition than it was at the AMC competition, plus self-aid and buddy care, chemical warfare, and daily physical training. "We've also done some additional 9 mm shooting to improve our shooting ability, which could have been better at the AMC competition," Grab added.

"I'm excited about it," said Dent. "We've been working hard, and we'll represent AMC well."

"We couldn't be in the position we are in if it weren't for the support from our squadrons allowing us to focus on the competition as our primary responsibility," Grab said. "We're very grateful. We want to win the competition not just for ourselves; we want to win it for them."

CAFB's 12 competitors are from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam; Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.; Ellsworth AFB, N.D.; Hurlburt Field,

Fla.; Ford Island, Pacific Ocean; Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.; Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany; Vance AFB, Okla.; Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; and U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony following the competition on Dec. 12, and the team returns home Dec. 13.

In addition to the 91 team members, nearly 180 active-duty staff members from across the Air Force will be on hand to run the competition, serving as role players, evaluators and support members. Chief Master Sgt. Melvin Willis, 437th Comptroller Squadron first sergeant, was selected by AMC to serve as a morale officer assigned to a team from another base, which is

the custom, according to Grab.

(AFPN and Capt Tracy Velino, 437 AW Public Affairs contributed to this story)



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

2nd Lt. Andy Grab, Top Dollar team leader, pretends to be injured while Staff Sgt. Julie Bule and Senior Airman Jeannine McGuire, both from the 437th Comptroller Squadron, perform first aid.